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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/550,070	09/21/2005	Shigeki Kawarabata	10873.1783USWO	2143
52835 7590 03/03/2009 HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER & LARSON, P.C. P.O. BOX 2902 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0902				
EXAMINER				
KURTZ, BENJAMIN M				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1797				
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03/03/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 2/24/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Esmond does not teach a plurality of holding ribs that extend inwardly from a wall of a filter retaining portion. Esmond teaches a plurality of ribs (67) that extend inwardly from a wall of the filter retaining portion as shown in figures 9 and 10. The ribs (67) are inserted in the end portions of the pleats as claimed. Applicant also argues that the ribs (67) do not help maintain the pleats, obstructs air bubbles from being released and impedes flow. Although this language is not in the claims, Esmond teaches the ribs maintaining the pleats and not impeding flow in column 5, lines 7-16. Applicant also has not provided any evidence that the ribs (67) would obstruct air bubbles from being easily released.

Applicant also argues that Graus does not teach ribs extending inwardly from a wall of a filter retaining portion. Graus teaches spacers placed between pleat folds. The spacers of Graus correspond to the claimed ribs and the spacer would extend inwardly from a wall of the filter retaining portion and are inserted in end portions of the pleats.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BENJAMIN KURTZ whose telephone number is

(571)272-8211. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Sample can be reached on 571-272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Benjamin Kurtz
Examiner
Art Unit 1797

/B. K./
Examiner, Art Unit 1797

/Krishnan S Menon/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797